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LOUISIANA
LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Vol. 13 No. 2

State Library

Spring 1950

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THE BULLETIN

of the

LOUISIANA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 13

NUMBER 2

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FOREWORD

ESSAE M. CULVER

State Librarian

THE Louisiana State Library Board and staff appreciate the honor being paid to the State Library in making this issue of the Bulletin a commemoration of twenty-five years of active leadership and service in developing Louisiana's library program.

On looking back, the progress has not been phenomenal, but has been steady in spite of floods, wars and depression.

The people of Louisiana have been most responsive, as evidenced by the Citizens' Library Movement of three hundred and fifty thousand members and by the number of parishes that have established libraries with help from the State Library. Of the 33 parishes still without library service, fourteen have met all requirements and are on the waiting list for a demonstration; from the remaining 19 the State Library has received letters from groups and individuals asking for information, indicating it will not be long before they, too, will be in the line of progress.

So we look confidently forward to the future when Louisiana will have a library in every parish. When that happy day arrives, some of the funds now devoted to demonstrations can be dedicated to promoting adult education programs, more adequate legislative reference service, exhibit collections, specialists in work with young people and children, promotional work with films and records, and many other glaring needs in library development.

One of the greatest handicaps to the State Library's program has been inadequate housing. This has prevented expansion in many phases: the accumulation of important and needed books and materials; the housing and

administration of the Books and Records for the Blind; the development of film and record collections; the building of a legislative reference collection; and the handling of State documents. Lack of adequate, fire-proof quarters has also prevented the acceptance of valuable source materials. Inadequate storage space has necessitated the buying of books for only one demonstration at a time when buying for three or four demonstrations would save much time and money in duplications of materials.

A special collection of editions of children's books would be invaluable to librarians and teachers, and space for this is provided for in the new building plans for the State Library. More adequate working space will greatly facilitate the amount of work turned out by the staff and more shelf space will allow rounding out of the reference collection greatly needed, because without sufficient space only those books can be purchased which are in immediate demand.

Parishes are gradually preparing more adequate homes for their libraries. Vermilion Parish, the first to vote bonds for a building, opened its beautiful new building on Sunday, March 12. Winn Parish voted a tax from which funds are being accumulated for a building, and St. Mary Parish has a \$10,000 gift to be used with other funds for a building.

We believe the State will, when funds are available, provide a functionally planned building for its State Library. With such a library structure and the expansion it will make possible, Louisiana will take rank with the most progressive library states.

A QUARTER OF A CENTURY AFTER

MILTON JAMES FERGUSON LHD

Former Librarian, Brooklyn Public Library

The man who came to dinner achieved a certain kind of reputation and the theatre made a fortune, but the man stayed only three weeks; the play, 739 performances. The girl I am writing about went to Louisiana for three years, stayed a quarter century and brought the joys and advantages of books—and her charming personality—to a whole state. Of my part in that transaction, I am immodestly proud, and after these twenty-five years, I would not have that moving finger which writes, cancel half a line. This is how I remember the beginning of the story; happily the end is not yet.

During my term as president of the League of Library Commissions, I had persistently beamed a distress call to the Carnegie Corporation of New York, yes, for money; for Dr. Frederick P. Keppel had long been sending his "St. Bernard" to succor various library enterprises. During the 1924 midwinter meeting of the American Library Association, Dr. Keppel asked me to submit a proposal and a budget, which, to be brief, resulted in a grant of \$50,000 to prime some state's library pump. The League reelected me for another two years, so that I might have the fun of getting the demonstration under way, and I suspect the responsibility—for that is the way it turned out.

When the announcement was made that a fair sum of money had been placed in the League treasury for aid to libraries, preferably on a state wide basis, the donor was not immediately named but everyone no doubt credited the Carnegie Corporation with another generous act. As I recall, thirteen states almost immediately offered themselves as willing guinea pigs; so it became a question of selecting the one which promised success during the time the money might last and permanency thereafter under local support.

Early in January 1925, I left Chicago for

home, (California), going by way of Louisiana which held a high place in the list because it had an inactive commission law. New Orleans proved to have all of that charm for which it has long been noted: French architecture, famous cuisine, oyster bars and sometimes refreshment more stimulating. To be sure, Mr. Beer, (Wm. Beer, librarian Howard Memorial Library, New Orleans) finding that I had already been in town 24 hours, scolded me soundly for not having reported to him; and "ordered" me to appear for breakfast next morning; and a tour of places of interest.

Arrangements were made for me to visit Baton Rouge to consult with members of the inactive Library Commission, and to interview the Governor. "Miss Kate's (Miss Katherine Hill, Baton Rouge) maid opened a reluctant door at my knock, taking me for a collector of early furniture; and Governor Fuqua met my enthusiastic promises of what a state wide library system could do with the half whimsical query as to whether the plan were not a "Yankee scheme to educate the heathen of the South". When I told him the money in hand might last three years but that success of the kind we were looking for would require local appropriations, he declared himself open to conviction. Whatever advantages other states might offer, I was not long in deciding that Louisiana with her simple law and no libraries to be uprooted, presented the best field for the experiment.

During a return visit to Louisiana in April 1925, the L.L.A. was wakened from its long sleep; and a meeting of the Commission was held in Baton Rouge. The offer of the money was made and accepted, with one condition only that the Executive Secretary should be a trained librarian of whom I approved.

Of course, I had someone in mind for the

job, and there was never a rival candidate. The Board accepted my recommendation. Louisiana became, in Dr. Keppel's words, the Corporation's Exhibit A; my promotional grand slam; and Miss Essae's personal, professional and social triumph. It was not all easy going. She met obstacles of many kinds; but with logic, personal charm and vision she convinced the skeptical and consolidated the ranks of library advocates and

users. National wide recognition of her ability came in her election to the presidency of the ALA. I suspect she values more highly the approval of the thousands of Louisianians whom she has served so well.

So that is the way Essae Culver happened to go to Louisiana for three years; there she has remained a quarter of a century, and in the process has become "The Duchess" a perfect transformation.

THE FIRST TWENTY-FIVE YEARS

MARGARET DIXON

Managing Editor, *Morning Advocate*

NANTELLE GITTINGER

Publicity Assistant, Louisiana State Library

Lovely Louisiana, famed in song and story, and the subject of more books than you can count on the fingers of your two hands, a mere 25 years ago was one of the most "bookless" of the 48 states.

Now with libraries in 31 of the 64 parishes bringing books through branch libraries and bookmobiles to the highways and byways, with bookstores doing a thriving business in every metropolitan center, and with an ever-increasing demand for yet more libraries, Louisianians themselves are apt to forget that just 25 years ago they were practically without books, or easy access to the printed word. But such was the case.

It was exactly 25 years ago July of this year that the Louisiana Library Commission, forerunner of the present Louisiana State Library, set up shop—in borrowed quarters in the old state capitol. And it was from this date that Louisiana's modern library development dates. During those 25 years, libraries have mushroomed over the state—and the demand for them has grown even more rapidly. A library school was established at Louisiana State University, libraries have been set up in the schools and in one-time almost bookless Louisiana, the printed word has become increasingly easy to obtain.

Largely it all goes back to the Louisiana

State Library, which began operating a quarter of a century ago on funds provided by the Carnegie Corporation; and the state's library has now become an increasingly important unit of the state government.

Since that day back in July, 1935, Louisianians have borrowed a grand total of 9,000,000 books from the Library collection—and even that figure doesn't represent the true story because actually books are passed from hand to hand and from reader to reader without benefit of the library stamp.

The whole story is one in which literally thousand of Louisiana residents had a part. But because space here is limited, there will be no attempt to give credit where credit is due. Only those whose part in Louisiana's library development is so intertwined as to make it impossible to leave them out will be mentioned here.

Actually, the story of library development in Louisiana goes back beyond the 25 years that the Louisiana State Library has been in existence. As early as 1915 a group of clubwomen, headed by an energetic and library-minded group of officials, began sending out traveling libraries, forerunner of the present-day book service of the State Library. This same group aided by others pushed through the legislature a bill creating

the State Library Commission. So the stage was set when the League of Library Commissions with \$50,000 provided by the Carnegie Corporation began looking around for a strictly rural state in need of book service and with a workable law providing for a state library extension agency,—but no funds to put it into operation. A representative of the League of Library Commissions visited Louisiana. He was impressed with the interest shown by the already existing Board of Library Commissioners of the relatively bookless state.

The upshot of the matter was that Louisiana was selected and \$50,000 made available for a five-year demonstration. At first there was no state aid whatsoever but after the very first year, the state of Louisiana appropriated \$2500 per year for the work, a small beginning but a mighty one. Yearly appropriations by the legislature have mounted steadily since that time. The library appropriation is one of the most popular to be considered every biennium by the legislators. A few years ago when a governor threatened to cut the library appropriation a perfect storm of protest from high and low, from cities and rural areas, from the wealthy and the needy broke over his defenseless head. The result was that the appropriation stayed. It has stayed ever since.

Largely, two persons figured in Louisiana's library development. They were in at the beginning and they labored long and hard to put the story of libraries across. In their efforts they had the help and advice of clubwomen, of legislators, of state officials and of just plain everyday citizens. Louisiana was hungry for books and welcomed the chance to get them.

Miss Essae Martha Culver, a California librarian with excellent training and experience, was selected to conduct the Louisiana demonstration. Now after 25 years at her job as head of the state's library development, she is somewhat amazed at her temerity in undertaking so mammoth a task. At any rate, she did.

On a hot July day, way back in 1925, she arrived in Baton Rouge to find not only a

dearth of books but a lack of space for an office. Quarters were offered at Louisiana State University for the new addition to the official family; however, since the campus was four miles from the capitol and one of the objects was to serve the legislators, this offer was refused with regret. The president of LSU, impressed with this lusty new infant in Louisiana's educational set-up, appealed personally in the library's behalf to the governor of Louisiana. Space was found in the old capitol and the new venture was ensconced in what was called the old office of the adjutant general.

This only partly solved the problem. There was, of course, no library furniture, but Miss Culver refused to be daunted. She borrowed a desk, a chair and a typewriter and set to work—although she confesses now that she was more than slightly dismayed at the prospect.

But even then she found a desire for books all over the State. Everywhere she went she was welcomed with open arms and everywhere men, women and children assured her that books were wanted.

It was no wonder. At that time there were only five free public libraries set up under the law in the State. All had inadequate supplies of books to meet the needs of the 600,000 or so served by them.

First service inaugurated by the new state agency was book-lending by mail to individuals anywhere in the state. This informational service has continued throughout the 25 years and has been one of the primary activities of the Library. Individual requests for books and information have come from every one of the 64 parishes. On countless occasions there have been requests, too, for lists of books available on certain subjects, and in response to these letters the Library has compiled bibliographies of available material for businessmen, educators, clubs and study groups. Then when the particular titles were asked for, they were mailed to the reader, whose only expense was for return postage on the books.

In its first year the Library answered 300 requests, an excellent record for the initial

year's operation but one which is completely dwarfed by the present annual total of nearly 50,000. Nowadays, a great number of requests come from existing libraries, which are enabled to supplement their own collections with books from the state agency. But in the beginning, when no country people had access to libraries, this books-by-mail system was the only means most Louisianians had of getting books, and today, citizens of the 33 parishes still lacking parish-wide library service continue to read thousands of books every year from the State Library.

In 1925, at the first meeting of the brand new Library Commission—at least brand new insofar as actual functioning was concerned—with the new executive secretary, it was decided that one of the major efforts would be toward the establishment of parish libraries, that in the meantime informational service by mail would be provided for those who had no library service whatsoever and that among other projects, efforts be made to promote the establishment of a library school, provide library service to legislators and that work be begun on a new and more adequate public library law.

All of this was a pretty large order since the executive secretary represented the entire staff of the new enterprise and since books were lacking. True, there were some 3000 books in storage, gifts and donations from clubs but when these were sorted and catalogued, only some 2500 were usable. Seventy-eight of these were concerned with growing cotton in Egypt, hardly vital to Louisiana which had its own problem aenent the growing of cotton.

Meanwhile, July had advanced into October and the library furniture, ordered months before, actually arrived, an event that was practically a millenium in the history of the library; and finally the books were shelved and on a frosty November 1, 1925, the library opened to the public.

Three hundred requests for books came during the next eight months. Books to aid business were especially wanted and the library settled down diligently to filling some of these pressing demands for infor-

mation. In short, business boomed.

In fact, it boomed almost too much. Some of the books which overflowed from the cramped office in the state capitol were stored on the old LSU campus. Sixteen Baton Rouge boys, who wanted reading material, broke into the store rooms and helped themselves.

In the meantime, a new figure had entered Louisiana's Library Story. This was J. O. Modisette, who served on the Commission until his death in 1942. A farm boy, who had known from experience what the lack of books meant, Mr. Modisette had by then become chairman of the Library Commission. He was assigned the task of disciplining the sixteen youngsters who broke into the store room.

His reaction was typical. "Those boys wanted books," he reasoned. "Perhaps we'd better give them something to read." Mr. Modisette did. He "sentenced" the sixteen to report weekly to the state library for a period of months, to read selected books. The "sentence" apparently worked. Some of those same sixteen are now among the library's most valued "customers" and influential friends.

With Mr. Modisette chairman of the Louisiana Library Commission and a tireless worker in the cause of books, the library business in Louisiana began to flourish. Mr. Modisette, who had a thriving law business of his own in Jennings, was asked to draw up a new public library law. He did, and in July, 1926, one year exactly from the time the State library began to function, the measure he had drawn became law.

An important provision of the 1926 law was the creation of a State Board of Library Examiners whose function was to certify administrative librarians of public libraries. The first meeting of this group to examine applicants for certification was called in 1927, and the Board has been operating throughout subsequent years.

Miss Culver was more and more convinced that the answer to Louisiana's problem was the parish library. This appeared the only possible answer to get books into

the rural area. The Commission members agreed. From this decision the Library has never wavered. Parish libraries still rank tops among the projects of the Library. Through this medium, books are being taken to the people of Louisiana.

The honor for establishing the very first parish library in Louisiana goes to Richland parish, where a group of clubwomen already had a small library functioning. The Library Commission entered the picture in 1926 and offered to send 1000 books, along with considerable free advice and help. So the principle of state aid to parish libraries was established in Louisiana.

About this time, the Louisiana legislature was meeting at its regular biennial session. The Louisiana Library Commission had been in existence only seven months and many of the legislators had never heard of the agency. But the Commission, which had already practically moved mountains, refused to be discouraged. The agency asked for an appropriation. Somewhat to their own surprise they got it—\$5000 for the biennium which represented the first state appropriation in Louisiana for library service, a milestone in the development of the work here.

With its headquarters established, its first parish library already in operation and with the public library law rewritten, the Library Commission looked for new worlds to conquer. The most pressing need, it was decided, was a demonstration to show the people of Louisiana just what library service meant to a community. Because at this point, Louisiana, or most of it, had little idea of the functioning of a library. To most, a library was associated with a college and the plain everyday citizen was apt to regard it as something with which he had no concern.

The Library Commission decided that it would conduct two such demonstrations, one in north and one in south Louisiana. Finally Richland, where parish library service was already being attempted, and Jefferson Davis were chosen. The decision to demonstrate parish library service was a momentous one

in the history of the institution—but it's one about which there are to this day no regrets. For the library officials are convinced now as then that the best way to make people library-minded is to show them what a library can do for a community. It's a true and tried formula as far as Louisiana is concerned.

The demonstration in Richland parish where the clubwomen's parish library was struggling along took the form of an additional large collection of books. Eighteen branch libraries were started and all was ready for the experiment.

And it was an experiment which was moving along in highly successful fashion when nature took a hand—with one of the greatest catastrophes in modern Louisiana history. The great flood in 1927 came along. The Mississippi river overran its banks. Levees broke almost daily and thousands of acres were inundated.

Richland parish was among those hardest hit. The area was almost completely under water. The librarian, who was over 60 years old, refused to be discouraged. Daily she donned boots and waded to the library housed in the school building. Negro refugees shared the quarters and the borrowers came in boats to get books. The story of Richland parish library in those trying days is an epic of determination and courage and the giving of service in the face of great obstacles.

The books were piled on chairs and tables as the flood waters crept into the streets of Rayville. Patrons came by boat just the same and finally the steps leading to the building were moved so boats would land more easily. Every boat left with its load of books and there are those Richland parish residents who to this day relate that without the library, they believe they would have been unable to ride out the super-flood.

As a matter of fact, circulation was kept at a level of some 60 volumes per day in the community of 1499 population. The circulation for the year reached the amazing total of 30,000 volumes.

At the end of the demonstration period,

the residents of Richland were more than convinced. So incidentally were many of their neighbors. An appropriation was made by the police jury and the Richland library is going strong to this day.

The second demonstration opened as scheduled in Jefferson Davis, in the heart of Louisiana's rice belt. The people welcomed the library with open arms. Greatest users were children from French families and one youngster read 100 books. The stories told about that six-months trial period were remarkable, involving reading records that are outstanding. But the demonstration period ended as the flood and a depression struck and the price of rice dropped below cost of production. The people of Jefferson Davis just couldn't afford another tax. So they voted the proposed levy down and thus chalked up one of the few tax failures insofar as parish libraries are concerned.

Even so, the story the library was trying to tell was interesting more and more people. When the legislature convened that next year, the appropriation for the library Commission was more than doubled—this in the face of one of the worst disasters in the state history. Although the legislature was besieged with requests for funds for flood sufferers, the library had made such an impression on the people of Louisiana that it was given a biennial appropriation of \$12,000—an increase of \$7,000.

As the state library moved into its fourth year, there was an awakening of interest in the service. Up in the rich Delta country, Concordia parish was anxious to get a library. The police jury passed a resolution of establishment but no funds were available. Finally the jury was able to provide its share of expenses. The Library Commission agreed to provide books and a librarian, and so Louisiana's third demonstration of parish library services came into being.

But the Mississippi began to kick up again. A tax election was called for June but by that time the fear of a flood had gripped the parish, a large portion of which was under water as the swollen river backed into bayous and creeks. The election was

postponed.

Came July and it was decided to try again. The police jury, however, refused to call an election on the grounds that the people of Concordia could not afford an additional tax at a time when crops were threatened with failure and backwater covered half the parish.

Aroused and determined, the people of Concordia circulated a petition for the tax election. And in no time at all, 25 per cent of the qualified voters had signed it. The police jury had no choice. They set the election for September 19. Once again Concordia rallied around. The first library tax in Louisiana was passed with a substantial majority of both voters and property valuation.

Meanwhile, back at State Library headquarters, the question of publicizing the service was the object of serious consideration. Finally it was decided to purchase a bookmobile—a library on wheels—which would show the people of Louisiana just exactly how parish libraries proposed to bring books to isolated areas.

Bookmobiles are a common sight in Louisiana today. Twenty-six of the 31 parish libraries have them and an unofficial estimate indicates that they bring reading material to some 50,000 people. But back in 1929, bookmobiles were something that Louisiana had read about.

At any rate, a bookmobile was purchased. Shelves of books were painted on either side and a collection of some 500 volumes was placed on the shelves within. The bookmobile set off on a visit to Louisiana fairs and while no books were loaned from the collections, the library-on-wheels was an instant hit. Its message of romance, inspiration and service was welcomed by the people of Louisiana. It seized their imagination. Louisiana librarians still like to tell of the woman who looked over the bookmobile when it paused at a filling station. She told the librarian that she had no time for reading, adding that her husband read sometimes. She was offered a cookbook and her amazement was complete. The only books

she had seen previously dealt with gasoline engines, she confided.

There were other stories of equal interest. For example, there was the child from the family where no one could read or write. The lad, who knew how to print, was interested in the bookmobile because he saw in the books it contained an opportunity for "book learning."

It was also in 1929 that Louisiana's fourth library demonstration was conducted. This was in Webster parish and proved quite the most ambitious undertaking of the state library to date. Webster had long been interested in a library. The Rosenwald Foundation was interested in financing a library project to serve both white and negro readers. Through the Library Commission, funds for Webster were obtained and a parish library was set up. It was an instant and complete success. In the first eight months of the demonstration period, the circulation reached 88,778. Negroes as well as whites were enthusiastic. The Webster library has never faltered.

One year later still another demonstration was begun. This was in the heart of Louisiana's Acadian country in Vermilion parish. The library actually opened early in 1931 with 4000 books from the Library Commission on hand. The Library likes to recall that it was in Vermilion that a grandmother came from remote Pecan Island, traveling by boat and on foot, to attend the police jury meeting in Abbeville where the project was discussed. She added her voice to the demand for the library.

And here, too, the library proved an immediate success. However, the demonstration period ended in the midst of the depression when every bank in the parish had closed its doors. There was no money for local support but the demonstration left a "taste" for libraries in Vermilion parish. Nearly a dozen years later when this parish's turn for a second demonstration came around, the citizens of Vermilion voted overwhelmingly for a library and assured its continuation at the end of the demonstration period. And the branch at Pecan Island

flourished with the rest. In fact, residents of the island only last year built a community center which houses their library and the health unit.

It was in the fall of 1931 that a long-needed library school was established at Louisiana State University, providing trained workers to administer public libraries as well as school and college libraries. Summer courses had been given for a number of years but the increased tempo of library development made an all-year-round course a vital necessity.

Another outstanding event at this time was of especial significance to the future of school and college libraries. Since its opening, the Library Commission, when called upon, had given expert advice and suggestions to school libraries and those of other educational institutions in the matter of selecting and purchasing books, cataloging, arranging, supervision and administration. In the fall of 1929, the Department of Education started a school library development program and added to the Department a State School Library Supervisor.

While neither the library school nor the newly directed attention to school libraries was a part of the Library Commission program, both plans had long been advocated by the Commission and their inauguration meant a greatly increased recognition of library values which had resulted from the state program.

In 1932, the state agency started a project of its own. It offered certificates to those who read a selected list of 12 books during the year. The response was immediate. Now, seventeen years later and after no particular promotion other than yearly printing of the book list and newspaper announcements of their availability, the project remains one of the most popular ever begun by the Commission, and a grand total of 8902 certificates have been awarded, representing 97,104 books read.

Another parish library was added in 1933 when a demonstration was started in Sabine —a strictly rural parish and one badly wanting a library. Again the demonstration

method proved its worth. The Sabine library is still thriving.

Meanwhile, Louisiana's state government had moved into the magnificent new capitol building, completed in 1932. So integral a part of the government had the Library become that when the other state departments moved so did the Library—to the 18th floor of the new capitol building. A far cry from its small quarters in the old capitol, the new home provided additional space and considerably more readers along with the space.

Settled in new quarters, the Library Commission approached its 10th anniversary year with a feeling of a big job to be done. Requests to the Library for information had increased steadily. As a matter of fact, these showed a 500 per cent increase. Still, not nearly enough money was available. More and more parishes wanted demonstrations, yet without funds, the Library Commission could do nothing in this field.

Finally in 1937 the demand became so acute that the governor of Louisiana became interested in providing books to the rural areas particularly. His idea was to utilize the school libraries which had gained impetus under the direction of the State School Library Supervisor in the Department of Education.

The Library Commission, however, didn't believe that the school library was the answer. Nor were Louisiana educators sure. To find the answer, a scheme was worked out. The State Department of Education put books for adults into the libraries of 56 high schools in 10 parishes. The Library Commission put the \$10,000 provided by the Department of Education, plus additional funds, into a regional demonstration, utilizing three parishes with approximately one third the adult population of the 10 parishes. The parishes chosen were Winn, Grant and Jackson and the first library demonstration crossing parish lines in Louisiana got underway.

Results were conclusive. At the end of six months the 119,296 residents of the 10 parishes served by the 56 school libraries

had borrowed only 14,355 books. The 31,610 residents of the parishes served by the Tri-State Demonstration had borrowed 101,236 books.

The following year, the legislature added \$100,000 to the appropriation of the Library Commission with the understanding that the regional demonstration would be carried on until a tax election could be held to provide local maintenance.

Too much of a good thing has often proved a drawback, and when the three parishes voted in 1940 on local continuance of the library, only one, Winn, voted the two-mill maintenance tax. Although popular vote in the other two parishes was in favor of the library, the tax failed to pass—a deficiency due in main, it was felt, to a too-long continued State support. People there had gotten used to the idea of the State "giving" them a library and they believed certain rumors that even if the tax failed the library would remain.

Only two other parishes in the state have subsequently received one-year library demonstrations without providing local maintenance when time came for withdrawal of State finance. These are Lincoln and Bienville, opened in 1939 and operated together. Unusual local conditions in both parishes contributed to insufficient financial support. Passed in popular vote, the tax was nevertheless defeated in property vote in Lincoln. Bienville parish, by common consent, did not have a tax vote because the financial affairs of the parish were at that time disclosed to be in a most serious condition.

Failure to vote continuance of the Tri-Parish project as a whole was disappointing in the extreme but there was no time to waste on regrets because the fruitful results of those first pioneering days of Louisiana's library development were by now abundantly evident.

In 1938 and '39 seven thousand new members had joined the already 300,000-strong Citizens' Library Movement which had been organized in 1936. Rapid strides were being made in building, strengthening

and expanding libraries in colleges, universities and public schools as a result of increasing library consciousness.

Fifteen parishes now had parish-wide library service and of the 49 still lacking any kind of library, 45 had manifested interest in library establishment.

Demonstration library work was concentrated in 1938 in an enlarged Extension Department and has ever since been under the capable direction of Miss Mary W. Harris, another California librarian who had joined Miss Culver in the library pioneer days. Departmentalizing of extension work was made possible through the increased appropriation and because for the first time a qualified librarian was available to devote full time to supervising demonstrations and giving advice to established libraries on questions of administration and service. Before then, books for the demonstrations had been ordered, cataloged, assembled and processed through the Reference Department of the headquarters library.

Playing a helpful part in the program, the statewide Library Service Project of the Works Project Administration, sponsored by the Commission, began operations in 1939. Here again were tangible results of the Commission-advocated doctrines of good library service set up under trained personnel and with coordinated plans interlocking it with the broad picture of development of a statewide level: the WPA agreed not to open a little library here, another there, and so on, stocked with any old kind of randomly-chosen books and staffed by untrained workers. Instead, the whole WPA library project would be in close conjunction with the Commission's program. Its head was a qualified, experienced librarian whose initial training was in the Louisiana program, and no WPA library projects were to be set up independently without Louisiana Library Commission approval.

This meant that the entire project was considered an adjunct to the Commission's extension department, both the WPA and the state agency pooling their resources to

provide more and better Louisiana libraries. Without such cooperation the two agencies could well have found themselves working at direct odds with each other, with serious detriment to the long-range library plan.

WPA supervisors were trained librarians who directed the thousands of clerical workers, book repairers, bookmobile drivers and clerical assistants whose needed work, was made available through WPA funds in parish and public libraries and in new demonstrations.

WPA money also bought thousands of books to strengthen and supplement the collections of existing libraries and the book stock sent from Commission headquarters for demonstrations. Another valuable contribution of this program was the Writers' Project. Under the sponsorship of the Commission and Louisiana State University the Louisiana Guide was prepared, and an illustrated book on Louisiana folklore was compiled. From the latter volume the state received royalties.

In operation until 1942, when the whole State WPA Project was discontinued, the Library Project had functioned as a part of the Commission's program; consequently, no libraries folded up as a result of WPA closing. True, in several cases budgets had to be stretched to include the salaries of custodians formerly paid by WPA and some staffs were reduced, but the benefits from WPA funds were not lost as they would have been if the WPA project had stood alone outside a permanent plan for library development.

Demonstrations were successfully concluded in Morehouse, Natchitoches and Terrebonne parishes. Concordia parish, which had been the first to vote a tax for library support, in 1940 became the first to pass a library tax unanimously, this time voting an increase from the original $\frac{3}{4}$ mill to one mill. Two large city libraries had expanded their services for parish-wide use, in East Baton Rouge and Caddo.

Another triumph was the passage by the 1940 legislature of Louisiana's first state aid bill for existing libraries. Popular demand

and voters' appeals from throughout the state resulted in the passage of the \$400,000 biennial appropriations, separate and apart from the Commission's own two-year appropriation of \$200,760. Only four votes in each house were registered against library state aid. The victory was a barren one, though, for the bill was vetoed by the governor because of insufficient funds.

Most outstanding evidence of the rank Louisiana's library program had attained was the election in 1940 of Miss Culver to the presidency of the American Library Association, composed of prominent librarians from all sections of this continent. Inside the state there was proof aplenty that the program was progressing by leaps and bounds, but selecting Louisiana's library leader to head the world's largest library organization was complimentary testimony of the professional attitude toward the truly amazing advance made under her far-sighted administration in an area which a mere fifteen years before had never known full library service.

It was the first time a woman from a Southern library had been elected to the presidency of the national library organization, and one of the few occasions when an ALA president had been chosen from a Southern state.

As American Library Association president, Miss Culver served on an advisory library committee to the U. S. Commissioner of Education and participated in numbers of library meetings in other states, where librarians engaged in programs similar to Louisiana's were eager to hear of the early obstacles overcome here.

Although the Commission offices were of necessity closed for five weeks late in 1940 when Commission offices were moved from the capitol building to the Old Hill Memorial Library on the capitol grounds, such temporary cessation of services had no effect on the total book circulation, for '40-'41 circulation figures of 1,384,204 books was a 37% increase over that of any previous two-year period.

Moving to the inadequate building in

which it is still housed, has, however, been an impairment in all phases of the development program. Built nearly a half century ago for the then small Louisiana State University, the outmoded old structure offers totally insufficient room for all purposes. Preparation of books for demonstration libraries is seriously slowed because there is a woeful lack of shelf or floor space in the Extension Department where all demonstration books are processed. It is impossible to prepare books for more than one demonstration at a time, thus necessitating needless duplication of the same processes, and it is also impossible to take advantage of increased discounts which would be available if demonstration books could be bought in larger quantities for several demonstrations at once.

Loss to the permanent State Library has been disheartening, for several priceless collections which have been offered to the Library if adequate fireproof housing was provided could not be accepted because there was no place to put them. Several private libraries which have been accepted have never been used to full advantage for the same reason. Development of the film and record collections is also retarded for lack of adequate space.

With the coming of World War II there was a national awakening to the need of more books and education facilities, which naturally turned people's minds to libraries—those available and those needed. Louisiana was no different from the rest of the nation in this, and Commission activities were stepped up to meet the rising demands for books, books, and more books.

A more serious type of information was requested by all groups, for everywhere people wanted to read of the far-away places to which American soldiers were going, women as well as men were preparing themselves for war-time jobs, and every one needed to inform himself on world affairs. Soldiers in Louisiana training camps wanted to study technical books for promotional examinations and to read of this land of Louisiana which was almost as strange to the

Maine or Minnesota boy stationed here as the foreign countries to which he would later be sent.

Four more parish librarians had gone through the demonstration periods and had become locally supported—in Bossier, Vermilion (on its second attempt), Pointe Coupee and De Soto. All parish units near soldier encampments supplemented the camp libraries with needed books and in general cooperated in providing reading material for the thousands of boys stationed in the State.

In January, 1942, the Commission opened a Library Demonstration in Rapides parish, which with its huge military population, was the largest population (90,000) served to that date by a demonstration library in Louisiana. It was successful throughout and became a local project at the end of the year.

Overshadowing all other activities, however, was the irreparable loss to the library cause of J. O. Modisette, whose stalwart championship ended with his death on June 19, 1942. He had served continuously and without compensation on the Library Commission board since his appointment in 1927, for fifteen of those sixteen years as board chairman. Since 1940, when the legislature in the general state government reorganization had placed the functions of the Library Commission under the Louisiana State University, he had served at the request of the governor as a one-man commission until the proposed transfer should be made. (Because the entire reorganization was later declared unconstitutional the Commission was never placed under University supervision.)

One month after the Library Commission offices opened in 1925 a letter had come from Mr. Modisette on the legal stationery of his firm, asking what he, as an interested citizen of Louisiana, could do to further library development. His generous offer was gratefully accepted and he was asked to draft a new public library law, the existing one being entirely inadequate. He drew up the law which became Act 36 of

1926, had it presented at the next legislative session and promoted it to almost unanimous passage in both houses.

At the first meeting of the Commission board after his appointment as a member he presented nine practical suggestions to develop interest in and obtain support for libraries; at the next meeting the report of his activities included the fact that he had written 526 letters and had secured endorsements for the Library movement from leaders in business, state government, education and organizations throughout the State and from Louisiana's Congressional delegation.

His contribution was not in personal service alone, for he gave thousands of dollars in legal services to the state, preparing every library bill introduced in the legislature during the sixteen years he served on the Commission and offering without charge his excellent legal advice on any problem which came up. Furthermore, every trip he made and every meeting he attended meant valuable time lost to his own highly successful law practice—and he went to hundreds of library board meetings, parish library openings, Citizens' Library Movement rallies, Library Association conventions, civic club and local government board meetings, always raising his voice in convincing argument for libraries.

Mr. Modisette's contribution to library advancement was outstanding in the nation, as shown in the citation of merit awarded to him posthumously on June 23, 1942, by the American Library Association's jury on citations. His selflessness for the cause of libraries was typified in the remark he made when informed, a short time before his death, of his selection for the merit award: "It should go to some one more worthy of it."

No new demonstrations were opened in the following year, but three more parishes applied to the Commission for demonstration libraries. A new extension service was inaugurated this year, though, for Negroes, with headquarters at Southern University at Scotlandville. It had long been felt that

the leaders of the race needed a good library from which to draw source material to offset the large amount of propaganda easily available. Functioning along the same lines as the reference and loan service at commission headquarters, the Negro Service is primarily for adults, with no fiction or children's books being circulated. Excellent response and use has amply justified the opening of the service.

At this point a new era began. Over the years Louisianians had at last learned the meaning of good library service. The groundwork had been well laid, people had been informed on libraries by newspaper and magazine articles, talks by Commission staff members to countless clubs and organizations in every section of the State, word of mouth from satisfied literary borrowers, and by observing the functions of libraries in neighboring parishes.

Now, parishes began applying for Commission-sponsored libraries more rapidly than it was possible to open the demonstrations. As soon as a police jury took the initial step of legally establishing a library by ordinance, the parish was placed on the Commission list to await its turn for a demonstration.

Some idea of the office work alone involved in putting on demonstrations is shown in the report of the Extension Director for the years '44 and '45, which stated that during the two year period 68,120 books were selected and made ready for library use, mainly in demonstration library projects.

By the end of 1947 ten parishes were on the waiting list, while three demonstrations were going on, in Lafourche, Iberia and Beauregard. Seven more parishes had successfully gone through the demonstration period and placed their libraries on a locally supported, permanent basis: Tangipahoe, Madison, Calcasieu, Acadia, Washington, Lafayette and Livingston (which voted the highest supporting tax, of three mills, voted up to then).

It had long been apparent that a change in the name of the state's library agency

was most desirable. Functions of the Commission were actually those outlined for a State Library, which the Commission had always been in reality. But the law library of the State, located in New Orleans, bore the name Louisiana State Library. As a consequence there was a continual mix-up in correspondence for the two libraries, always with the chance of losing valuable material for either agency.

With the agreement of the Attorney General, under whose direction the law library functioned, two bills were introduced in the 1946 legislature by the Commission to effect the name changes. The law library became the Law Library of Louisiana and the Library Commission became the Louisiana State Library.

With the new name came an expansion of services to include a legislative reference service, which operated officially for the first time at the 1948 session of the legislature, although many legislators had long used the library's facilities.

A most significant project undertaken during 1947, different from any attempted before by the Library, was the demonstration conducted at the Louisiana State Penitentiary at the request of the Department of Institutions which at that time had jurisdiction over the penitentiary.

Operating on a system similar to that of a parish library, the penitentiary library was set up with a central headquarters unit and branch libraries in each of the inmate camps. Intensive use was made of the library, with inmates borrowing books on a wide variety of subjects, just as in parish libraries. Recreational books were of course in great demand, westerns, love stories and adventure novels being the most popular for no detective or mystery books were included in the collection. But many, many prisoners read to improve themselves, studying trades they had previously followed or ones for future use, or reading for education on the higher levels of philosophy, science, history and literature.

As a part of the rehabilitation so essential in a modern penal program, the penitentiary

library was decidedly a favorable influence and as one of the most unusual demonstrations ever conducted in the state's library program it was a success.

Unable to continue such a project indefinitely, the State Library hoped it would follow the same plan as that for parish libraries, and be supported at the close of the demonstration by the supervising Department of Institutions. This was not to be, however, for although penitentiary officials expressed regret over the closing of the service they said the penitentiary budget did not allow for hiring a trained librarian, and of course such a program would lose its efficacy unless closely supervised by an experienced person. So the State Library withdrew its books and the demonstration ended.

Another important event of this year was to enlarge the Louisiana collection and title it the Department of Louisiana Archives. The librarian placed in charge of answering all requests on Louisiana also directs the addition to the files of items about the State and about Louisiana figures, and maintains files of reports from state departments.

Louisiana's library saga has been marked with continuing progress along all lines in the past three years.

Fourteen parishes are now on the demonstration list, while 31—almost half of all the parishes—receive parish-wide service.

Planning for libraries has swept over the State. Tax renewals have been voted in those parishes whose original or second taxes have run out, many parishes have increased their library maintenance, bond issues and special taxes have been voted for building programs alone, and many new library buildings have already been dedicated.

Climaxing the yearly record of thousands of State Library books circulated in Louisiana is the grand total for 1949—1,064,539—an unprecedented twelve-month circulation and a most gratifying one in terms of the people whose lives have been broadened and brightened by benefit of the knowledge con-

tained within the covers of those thousands of books.

Satisfactory answers to an ever-growing variety of special information requests are supplied through the Reference Department at State Library headquarters at the rate of nearly 50,000 a year. Requests for business information still head the list, as it did the first year the Library opened. Any one wanting to start a new business or to expand his present enterprise can get complete information on its background, operation and possibilities from library material—and hundreds do, from the banker wanting to know about the new fertilizer business for which he is asked to lend money, to the bricklayer needing to learn how to lay marble floor and marble wall facings so that he can qualify for a profitable job calling for such technique.

Since 1930 the Reference Department has been under the proficient direction of Assistant State Librarian Debora R. Abramson.

Film service was inaugurated in 1949, and in the first six months the 37 films of the collection were shown 626 times to a total number of 19,890 people. Functioning in much the same manner as the book-lending service, the film service is available to individuals, clubs and groups upon request.

Increased out-of-state recognition indicates, too, the rank held by Louisiana's program among the other systems of the nation, as it is recognized with systems which have been in operation years longer.

For instance, when foreign visitors come to America to study rural public libraries, they are almost invariably sent to Louisiana, and to California whose program is one hundred years old this year. From Canada, South America, South Africa, Australia, England, France, Germany and Poland, visitors have arrived in recent years to observe Louisiana's system.

Such success is heartening to the librarians and many friends of libraries who have labored and striven in the heroic crusade. The hardest part is now over, for state-wide public awareness of libraries is at an all-time high.

Gone are the days when State Library representatives must convince people of the necessity or benefits of a library. What is needed now is a continued cooperation with librarians of established centers and a continued cooperation with individuals and groups who are still trying to get a library.

Almost every one knows about libraries now. Those who have access to them have accepted them as an essential part of their daily lives and make good use of them. Those without them are doing all they can to get a local library and are trying to find out just what steps to take.

Three primary problems impede even faster library development now. First is the cramped quarters of the State Library, second is an inadequate budget, third is a shortage of trained librarians. For the first, the answer is a modern, spacious building in keeping with the dignity and scope of one of the nation's outstanding cultural and educational programs. For the second, increased funds to carry on the accelerated program would materially hasten fulfillment of

Louisianians' ever-growing demands for books and information. For the third, the solution is the entrance of new personnel into the opportunity-filled and satisfying field of library work.

In any case, twenty-five years of library development have brought to the fore a whole state population's eagerness for books—an eagerness so strong that all future obstacles will be overcome by it, as have all obstacles in the past.

This then, in brief, is the story of the Louisiana State Library. It is a story whose success has far exceeded the wildest and fondest dreams of that small band of pioneers who 25 years ago opened headquarters in a borrowed office with borrowed furniture—and with no books to speak of.

There is, of course, much still to be done. But the State Library feels that if the next 25 years of its history approach in even a small measure the accomplishments of the last quarter century, library books will be an accepted service to every man, woman and child in Louisiana.

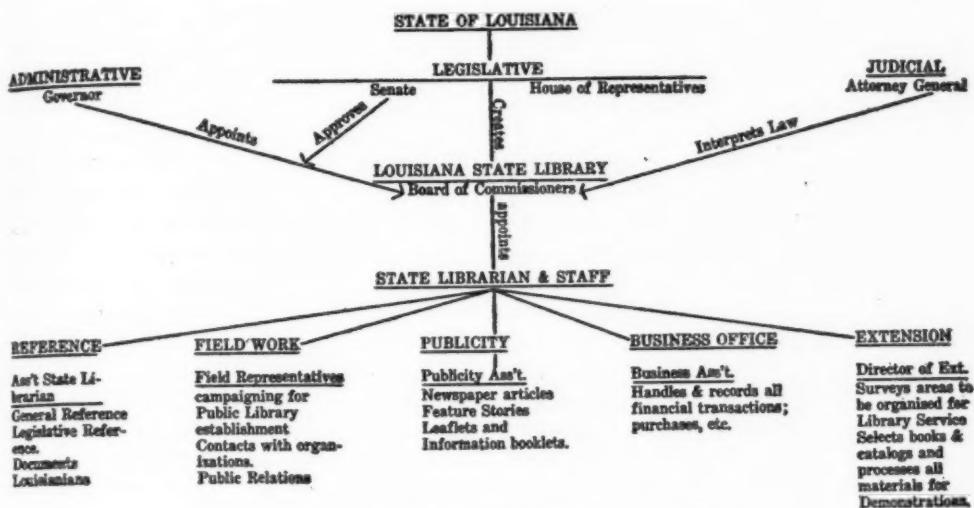
ORGANIZATION AND FUNCTIONS OF THE STATE LIBRARY

The Louisiana State Library by law is charged with the functions of organizing new libraries and improving those already established; of offering advice to all schools, state institutional and free public libraries and to all communities in the state which may propose to establish libraries; of obtaining reports from all free public libraries of Louisiana, and similar reports from other libraries; of organizing and maintaining for the use of the Legislature and State officials as well as the public a legislative reference service.

The State Librarian is the chief administrative officer and director of library development in the State, with the obligation to

plan and work toward a coordinated system of parish and regional libraries, so that every citizen and resident of the State shall have free library service of the highest quality consistent with modern methods and as may be justified by financial and economic conditions. The State Librarian by law must endeavor to coordinate and integrate the library service so as to afford the schools, colleges and universities the best free library service possible by means of inter-loan arrangements, book exchanges, etc.

The chart shows the organization of the State Library, and the following three articles describe the three services: reference, field, and extension.



Organization Chart of Louisiana State Library

REFERENCE SERVICE

DEBORA ABRAMSON

Assistant Librarian, Louisiana State Library

The Louisiana State Library has always had as one of its main functions, the giving of an information service to the citizens of Louisiana.

It has always said that it will send direct to any individual without library service, or at the request of his library if he is served by one, any information that can be supplied. If the material desired is not in the collection of the Louisiana State Library, it will be bought or obtained through interlibrary loan, according to what seems wisest in each individual instance.

With this very broad statement of policy, it has been a source of fascination to those who have had the privilege of observing the development of this service through the years, to see the increase in use and the variety of "special" services that have been brought about as a result of the types of reference service called for.

At the very beginning, with its limited funds, the then Louisiana Library Commission decided that no one state agency could meet the demand for juvenile titles or current fiction, so that at the outset only infor-

mational works would be lent through the mailing service. The exception to this rule was that fiction works classed as literature, and books by Louisiana authors or about Louisiana, would be circulated. It was also decided that it would be impossible to provide texts or collaterals for class room use, or to put on reserve materials for use of groups, but that the individual pupil could write for material on his hobby, or books for his special interests that were not for use by the entire class, if his letter were O.K'd by the principal or sent in by the school librarian.

As soon as the library began to operate, a conference was held with the librarian of Louisiana State University, and it was decided that the Louisiana Library Commission (now the Louisiana State Library) would be the clearing house for all requests from individuals in the state, and that every effort toward cooperation would be made, so that the book resources of the state would be available to all citizens at a minimum cost. Throughout the years, the value of this cooperation cannot be overemphasized, and there has hardly been a day when at least one and often many volumes have been borrowed from the Louisiana State University Library.

Equally noteworthy and probably more so,

since it is a privately endowed institution, has been the generosity of the Howard-Tilton Memorial Library of Tulane University, and its predecessors, the Howard Memorial and the Tulane, libraries.

Since these libraries were years older than the Louisiana Library Commission and had well-established collections, full advantage was taken of the privilege of borrowing needed books. Consequently, to this day, the book collection of the Louisiana State Library has many surprising gaps and is in no sense a rounded collection. This is partly due to the limited funds at its disposal, and partly to the generosity of the borrowing privileges of these libraries in the area. Moreover, by avoiding duplication of materials already available in the region, much waste of effort, time, and funds has been avoided.

In the reference service of the Louisiana State Library there has never been a limit to the number of books a borrower could have at any one time. Books are ordinarily loaned for a four weeks period and may be renewed if there are no other requests. If the titles are in great demand, the loan period is limited to two weeks, and an additional copy is purchased for every ten requests. No fees are charged and no fines, and the library pays postage one way on material sent to the patron.

It is interesting to note the growth of the demand for reference work, and by whom these services are used. Also, how the resources for giving this service have increased since its inauguration.

In 1925 one person filled all requests—ordered the titles if not available, cataloged the books, did the actual shipping and prepared the records pertaining thereto, and kept all statistics in connection with the use of the books. The number of "special" requests, that is, the number of calls for individual works or books on given subjects, was 300 the first year from an active, new collection of 5,243 books.

To become statistical for a moment, the following tabulation shows the story of the reference service of the Louisiana State

Library quantitatively:

Year	Total number of books	Special requests
1925-30	18,250	8,800
1931	23,877	8,103
1932	25,555	10,910
1933	26,405	17,280
1934	28,505	22,408
1935	29,071	25,356
1936	29,784	26,010
1937	39,086	27,024
1938	44,358	35,856
1939	60,476	40,212
1940	95,987	38,332
1941	127,078	39,692
1942	144,721	32,718
1943	153,722	31,830
1944	193,740	40,643
1945	223,422	39,415
1946	240,130	41,911
1947	260,410	48,387
1948	294,051	47,558
1949	316,201	45,527

The development indicated by the above figures, was accompanied by increased library support, increased staff and services, and greater specialization.

At the present time there are two trained librarians at the desk, three who care for the reference and order work, one who handles all requests for information on Louisiana including film service, a trained cataloger, and three clerical workers, including a full-time shipping clerk. In addition there is a business manager and a secretary, who serve not only the reference department but the whole library.

The inquiries about Louisiana have included its history, personalities, businesses and industries, local products, and all phases of its activities. As the library collection began to take shape, a Louisiana collection of books by Louisianians or about Louisiana was begun, even though no one member of the staff was assigned to fill such requests. This collection has continued to be of great use, and in constant demand. Now that one person has the responsibility for its growth, a systematic attempt is made to maintain clipping files, biography files of

current authors, musicians, artists; files of state reports and reports of special boards, commissions, etc. Pamphlets, films, maps, and music that pertain to Louisiana are also collected. Current periodicals are examined for Louisiana items and where found, duplicate copies are ordered and clipped.

Throughout its history the Louisiana State Library has made every effort to serve state officials, state legislators, and state employees. By Act 102 of 1946 it was given the added charge of organizing and maintaining a Legislative Reference Service. A nucleus of a law collection was given to the library by the Department of Finance in Liquidation, and it is the hope that trained assistants can soon be employed to care for this service.

During the 1948 legislature, the regular reference staff maintained a desk at the Capitol during the session, and the use made of this legislative reference service was encouraging. Through cooperation of the L.S.U. Library, L.S.U. Law Library, and the Huey P. Long Library, all books and staff resources in the area were pooled. With this basis of cooperation, all future development will be planned to avoid duplication and to hold expense at a minimum.

During the past year the demand for films has been so great that a beginning collection of films has been assembled. It has been in continuous and steady demand. In this area of service the same care has been taken to avoid duplication of available materials and to utilize other agencies. Meetings have been held with representatives of such agencies, in the interest of having a union list of films within the state, and to determine the conditions under which films might be borrowed. In the first six months of service, 37 films have been shown 626 times to a total of 19,890 persons.

Special projects of interest to other special groups have not been attempted in the reference service except to encourage individuals to read on a variety of subjects. A Reading Certificate has been awarded since 1932 during Book Week to each individual who has read twelve books in the

preceding twelve months, not more than one of which is fiction. Thousands of persons have read for Certificates, and there has been a steady demand for the Reading Certificate List which is printed each year and distributed in November to libraries and individuals. The titles on the list are merely suggestive, other titles may also be approved as acceptable for earning a certificate.

To give a summary of the people who have used the reference service of the State Library would be to give a representative cross-section of literate Louisianians; farmers, businessmen and women, home demonstration agents and their clubs, teachers, lawyers, P.T.A.'s, labor and service clubs, federated women's clubs, doctors, school men and women, students, and school children.

As might have been anticipated, with the increase in public libraries the number of requests from individuals decreases, but the number of requests from libraries always increases. Librarians know that if they do not have what a patron wishes, the Louisiana State Library will have it or make every attempt to obtain it.

There still are services that the Louisiana State Library might give in a reference service—service to the blind, special reading guidance, publication of book lists, reproduction of materials by newer technical processes. The first twenty-five years however have seen a sound basic growth, and it is hoped that in the future these and other services will be added.

DEMONSTRATIONS

SALLIE FARRELL

Field Representative, Louisiana State Library

The library demonstration plan in Louisiana is exactly what the name implies. The Louisiana State Library believes that a "demonstration" of adequate, efficient library service assures permanent library support at the conclusion of the year's trial period.

A region is chosen for a demonstration

because of manifest interest. A field representative is sent to the region to explain fully to organizations, group meetings, and leaders how a demonstration is set up, how it operates, kinds of service it promotes, obligations of the Police Jury in passing the ordinance of library establishment and appropriating funds for the overhead expenses, and contributions of the State Library. If the interest seems sufficient and the citizens express their intention of asking the Police Jury to pass the ordinance, a survey of the area is made which reveals the number of people to be served, number of distributing points, available locations, types of service, etc., so that an estimate can be made for a budget before presenting the plan to the Police Jury.

When the plan is presented to the governing body—usually by a citizens' group and the State Library field representative—the Police Jury either passes an ordinance of establishment in which a library board is named, or rejects the proposal. If the ordinance is passed, a copy is sent to the State Library with a request for a demonstration.

The preliminary survey of the parish, made by a field representative, is used not only in the campaign for library establishment but by the Extension Department of the State Library in selecting books for the demonstration, and later by the parish librarian in the setting up and promotion of the service. This survey includes such items as population (adult, juvenile, negro, farm, rural, urban), financial condition of the parish, names of officials, incorporated and unincorporated towns (population of each and names of officials), number of schools (enrollment and names of principals), illiteracy, industries, crops, natural resources, newspapers, radio station, organizations (officers and dates of meeting), etc.

Preceding the choice of books for the library, a study is made by the Extension Department of the parish where the year's demonstration is to be located, using the preliminary survey mentioned above. Educational factors; interests of the people; in-

dustrial, business, agricultural, and professional factors; and existing book resources determine the book collection. A map of the parish is plotted to determine the possible location and number of branches and stations, and bookmobile routes.

Prior to the shipment of books to the region the staff of the library demonstration and a field representative from the State Library have been busily engaged in selecting locations for headquarters and branches, securing furniture and equipment, and supervising the building of shelves. The staff have been mapping bookmobile trips. They have been training intensively, in a four or five day course, the non-professional assistants. The parish librarian and the field representative have met with the library board, appointed at the time the ordinance of establishment was passed, thoroughly informing the members of procedures and plans and soliciting their help and advice.

During the demonstration the State Library is confronted with the problem of "selling" in a year's time permanent library service to the people of a parish. The librarian and the staff of the parish library demonstration, working under the supervision of the State Library, turn all their talents on getting people into the library, on keeping them coming to the library, and in making the whole parish "library-conscious." The parish librarian is engaged during the year's demonstration period in a "high-powered," concentrated public relations program. Every possible method of enlightenment and of interpretation is utilized. The library demonstration identifies itself with every phase of community life—the church, the school, the agricultural extension program, the Girls Scouts, the Boy Scouts, the Camp Fire Girls, civic, cultural, and educational organizations, the chamber of commerce, the parish health unit, and governing bodies. The librarian does not wait to be called on for help; she goes out to offer the services of the library.

It might be pointed out that the merits of the Louisiana Library demonstration plan are these: that the book collections are ade-

quate and new; that local governing authorities participate from the beginning; that municipal, parish, and state officials are thoroughly informed about the demonstration; that the demonstration period has a definite termination point; that permanent local support is discussed in the earliest stages; that, by and large, the whole area has service from the very beginning; and that the demonstration is established under the law so that there is no disruption of service when the library becomes locally supported.

The library extension program could have moved much faster in Louisiana had the funds been spread thin. Instead of dissipating its resources for extension, however, the State Library has concentrated them on demonstrations of good service, making it possible for the parish or region to build its own library on a firm, solid foundation.

EXTENSION DEPARTMENT

SARAH JONES

Field Worker, Louisiana State Library

Much of the improvement in the library picture of Louisiana has been due to the launching of new libraries through the demonstration method. That is, a modern library is set up within a parish, and operated for a year's demonstration period, largely through state funds, after which control and financial maintenance is taken over by the parish, usually by vote of its taxpayers. This plan for which Louisiana is responsible has long been well known in national library circles.

Establishment of parish or larger-area libraries was an objective of the Louisiana State Library from its very beginning, and about half of the budget of the state agency has been for extension, aimed directly at a program of parish library development. The program is three-fold: (1) complete library coverage for Louisiana, with libraries (2) giving standard service, at (3) acceptable cost. It means not only setting up local parish libraries through state aid, to convince taxpayers that they are worth

permanent financial support, but also advising and aiding operating libraries in their efforts to render standard service, possible only with standard income.

In 1938 the Extension Department had a director for the first time, Miss Mary Walton Harris, who came to the State in 1925 as assistant in the old Louisiana Library Commission. Though a Southerner by birth, she had spent many years and gained her library experience in California, and she returned there briefly after work in the Commission, before coming back to the State permanently in 1929, to assume charge of the Webster Parish Library. In 1937 she went to Winnfield as librarian for the Tri-Parish Library, a state-planned demonstration.

When she took charge of the Extension Department it was on the basement floor of the new state Capitol, with six employees, who immediately plunged into selecting and processing book collections for demonstration libraries, preparing a manual of operating procedures for parishes, and generally assisting local libraries of the whole State with practical advice on usual and unusual library problems.

The Department, now on the first floor of the present State Library building, has an average of 22 employees, about one-fourth of whom are trained librarians, the rest being typists for handling book order and catalog cards, clerks for filing and office routines, and workers for the mechanical processes of marking, pasting and shellacking the books. Sometimes once a year, once five times in 12 months, thousands of books are selected from the storage shelves, packed in shelf list order and sent over a hundred miles away, to an opening demonstration library. These books have complete cataloging and are accompanied by all records, filed, so that the new library system can begin operation within a few days after their delivery.

Rapides Parish received the most books—28,000 in initial shipment and throughout its demonstration year.

The Department has bought and process-

ed 262,000 books. Always of interest to visitors is the method of duplicating catalog cards by a special mimeograph, to aid in rapid cataloging.

The Department controls with office records about 210,000 books remaining in parish libraries after demonstration; it makes weekly shipments to three current demonstrations; and it is always buying books, both for demonstrations in progress and others to come in the near future.

Richland, Concordia, Webster and Sabine parish libraries which were operated before the Extension Department's beginnings, as well as the municipal libraries which have expanded into parish service—East Baton Rouge, Ouachita and Caddo—have been assisted by book grants and other state aid. The Extension Department, however, assisted in planning and directing demonstrations in Natchitoches, Terrebonne, Morehouse, Bossier, Vermilion, Pointe Coupee, De Soto, Rapides, Calcasieu, Tangipahoa, Madison, Acadia, Washington, Lafayette, Lafourche, Livingston, Iberia and Beauregard, in the order named. Just now there are demonstrations in Avoyelles, Catahoula and Jefferson parishes.

Worthy of noting is the fact that the 210,000 books still in parish libraries circulated more than 675,000 times in 1949, making up about 15 per cent of the total circulation of all parish libraries in the State.

In addition to the books in the many parishes on indefinite loan, the Extension Department manages 15 state-owned bookmobiles, in demonstrations and lent to local

parish libraries to stimulate library use. This is more than one half the bookmobiles operated in Louisiana.

Also, the Extension Department assists all public libraries with general advisory service. Director and field worker constantly travel over the State, conferring with local librarians on buildings, on bookmobiles, on budgets, on book selection, on board relationships, on the many library problems constantly presented. To assist further these librarians, the department has held training institutes, lasting from one day through one week, on the parish, district and state levels and largely attended by all parish librarians and assistants. It also issues work annuals, and gathers statistics of public libraries on a monthly and annual basis, and, in general, spreads knowledge of standard operating procedures and information on library accomplishment.

The department also directs the Service for Colored People, housed at Southern University, Baton Rouge, a state-wide library service to Negroes which parallels the service being given by the reference department of the State Library to white Louisiana residents. This service was begun in 1943, and is managed by trained Negro librarians, who mail books to individuals and libraries upon request, prepare reading lists, speak before groups of teachers and other Negro leaders, in an effort to bring books into the Negro homes of Louisiana. Some 25 of the 31 demonstration and local parish libraries have Negro branches in their parish systems.

LYLE SAXON'S FOOTNOTES TO HISTORY A BIBLIOGRAPHY (Part II)

JOE W. KRAUS

Assistant Librarian, Howard-Tilton Memorial Library, Tulane University

This concluding part of the bibliography includes the peripheral material: the anthologies in which Saxon's stories and sketches have appeared, the introductions

and notes to books written by some of his friends, the books dedicated to Saxon, and the biographical and memorial articles about him. Additions and corrections to the list

will be welcomed.

**Books Containing Contributions by
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Portfolio

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O. Henry Memorial Award Prize Stories of 1926 . . . Garden City, Doubleday, Page & Company, 1927.

pp. 213-228, "Cane River"

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American Scrap Book; the Year's Golden Harvest of Thought and Achievement. New York, Wm. H. Wise & Co. (1928)

pp. 34-40, "A Child Looks at the River," from *Father Mississippi*

The 1929 Gumbo, a Yearbook issued by the Students of the Louisiana State University. Baton Rouge, 1929.

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Louisiana in the Short Story, by Lizzie Carter McVoy. Baton Rouge, Louisiana State University Press, 1946.

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pp. 47-52, "The Times of Their Lives," from *Father Mississippi*, pp. 277-300,

"The Centaur Plays Croquet."

Books Dedicated to Lyle Saxon

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Felicia, by Stark Young. New York, London, Charles Scribner's Sons. 1935.

From the Deep South, compiled by Marcus B. Christian. (New Orleans, 1937)

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Tallant, Robert "My Fabulous Friend Lyle Saxon" *New Orleans Times-Picayune*, Nov. 21, 1948, Magazine section, p. 8-9.

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(Continued on p. 58)

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Edited by

MATTIE SUE MOUNCE

Assistant Reference Librarian, Louisiana State Library

Mrs. Zula Herring now replaces *Mrs. Alice Seymour* at the *Milton H. Latter Memorial Branch* of the *New Orleans Public Library*. *Mrs. Seymour* has retired from library work. *Robert Zibilich* is a new member of the *New Orleans Public Library* staff in the order department of the main library. *Mr. Zibilich* obtained a leave of absence from the library while he was helping to administer the flood program in the northern part of the state.

The Gentilly Garden Society of *New Orleans* agreed to plan and supervise the landscaping of the patio of the *Norman Mayer Memorial Gentilly Library*. The initial planting was made in late January, and additional materials will be added at intervals until the patio becomes an attraction for readers who like to read out of doors. The landscaping of the grounds of the main library are also being improved, reports librarian *John Hall Jacobs*.

The annual joint meeting of the *New Orleans* and *Baton Rouge Library Clubs* was held in the new *Norman Mayer Memorial Gentilly Branch* on March 4 with *Mrs. Ruth Moor*, president of the *New Orleans Club*, presiding. *Mrs. Martin Lord*, who was the first president of the *New Orleans Library Club*, and who has lived in *Ireland*, spoke on that country with emphasis on the libraries of *Ireland*. *Nell Davidson*, of the *New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Library* gave a talk on some of the European libraries which she visited on a recent trip.

A half-ton panel delivery truck was recently purchased by the *New Orleans Public Library* for use in delivery, pick-ups, and messenger service. It is hoped that a tri-weekly service between agencies can soon be established.

Mary H. Clay, librarian, gave a radio program recently on the "History, Facilities, and

Services of the Northeast Junior College Library."

Anna Davis, *Gray Gillam*, and *Marjorie Miller* of the *Southeastern Louisiana College Library* staff attended the meeting of the Library Section of the Louisiana College Conference at *L.S.U.* on March 4.

Mildred M. Gantt, who has a B.S. in L.S. degree from *LSU* and an M.S. in L.S. from *Peabody*, is teaching the library science courses in the school of education at *Louisiana Polytechnic Institute*. Prior to coming to *Tech*, *Miss Gantt* was librarian at *Marianna High School*, *Marianna, Florida*. She has also taught library science at *Florida State University* and at *Peabody*. *Mildred L. Simmons*, *L.S.U.*, 1949, is librarian of the *A. E. Phillips Elementary School* at *Louisiana Tech*.

Scharlie E. Russell, who served as librarian of *Northwestern State College* (formerly *Louisiana State Normal*) from 1910 until 1940, died on February 3. During *Miss Russell's* term as librarian, the three-story brick library building was constructed, and the book collection grew from 5,000 volumes to 41,000 volumes.

Dr. Charles H. Brown, visiting bibliographer at *L.S.U.*, presented a report to the Association of Research Libraries at its meeting in *Chicago* in January. *Guy R. Lyle*, Director of Libraries at *LSU*, was chairman of the University Section of the Association of College and Reference Libraries and was responsible for the University Section program at the mid-winter meeting of *A.L.A.* in *Chicago*. The program consisted of papers by *Dr. Fulmer Mood* and *Dr. Vernon Carstensen*, Department of History, University of Wisconsin, on "University Records and Their Relation to General University Administration" and by *Dr. James Patton*, Director of Southern Historical Collection,

University of North Carolina, on "Regional Manuscript Collections." *Dr. A. J. Eaton*, Associate Director of the L.S.U. Library, and *Richard Klenke*, Chief Acquisitions Librarian at L.S.U., also attended the mid-winter meeting. Dr. Eaton was a member of the A.L.A. Board on Resources of American Libraries.

Other Louisiana librarians attending the A.L.A. mid-winter conference in Chicago included: *Mrs. Charles H. Morton, Norris McClellan*, and *S. Metella Williams* of the L.S.U. Library School; *Dr. Garland Taylor*, librarian of Howard-Tilton Library at Tulane; *John Hall Jacobs* librarian of the New Orleans Public Library; *Sue Hefley*, University of Texas Library School; *Jane Dawkins*, librarian of the Carnegie Library of Lake Charles; *Jane Ellen Carstens*, librarian of the Hamilton Training School Library at Southwestern; and *Loma Knighten*, librarian Southwestern Louisiana Institute.

Ruth Nesom, formerly librarian at the Hammond High School succeeds *Mrs. Lena deGrummond* as librarian of the Terrebonne High School in Houma.

Two parish libraries have reported tax elections recently. *Winn Parish* voted a 3-mill tax for five years, increasing its millage by a mill; while *Catahoula Parish* voted a tax of $3\frac{1}{2}$ mills (a record) for five years.

Early this year the *St. Martin Parish Police Jury* passed a resolution establishing a parish library. St. Martin is now the 13th parish on the waiting list for a demonstration.

Mr. and Mrs. Tackett Clarke enjoyed a motor vacation during the Christmas holidays through the Southwest. They attended the Tournament of Roses Parade and the Rose Bowl Game on New Year's Day. *Mrs. Clarke* is on the staff of the *Calcasieu Parish Library*. *Emily Spencer*, librarian, Calcasieu Parish Library, reports the purchase of a new Bell and Howell projector and screen. "It is the most popular material the library has," says Miss Spencer. "Many groups have used and enjoyed it already." The Lions Club of *Sulphur* gave the Sulphur Branch Library a record player which will be used

(Continued from p. 56)
overseas. \$10 sends new books, in your name, to war-wrecked schools and libraries in Europe or Asia.

Silliman University, Dumaguete, the Philippines, has an experimental farm, stresses agricultural training—but its library does not have one book on agricultural science.

Charles University, Prague, Czechoslovakia, finds 400 medical students using one book. At the technological Institute of Tokio, the latest chemistry book was published in 1924. A new department of Geology at Seoul National University, only mining school in Korea, has no reference material except a few old Japanese mining journals.

To get an adequate library is one of the greatest problems at the new, democratic, U. S. -sponsored Free University of Berlin, which has an "unlimited requirement" for American books and publications.

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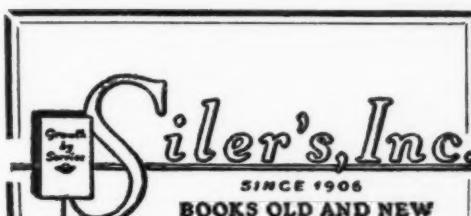
Mrs. Leila J. Barker is now a member of the staff of the *Alexandria Public Library* and is in charge of the circulation desk. She replaces *Lily B. Sylvester*, who has retired.

The new building of the *Carver Branch* of the *Ouachita Parish Public Library* was dedicated at a service held on Sunday afternoon, February 12. This building was constructed with funds raised by the *Negro Chamber of Commerce of Monroe*. It is most attractive and is completely furnished. The *Monroe Garden Club* has undertaken the project of landscaping the grounds. *Martha Ann Scott*, assistant librarian of the *Ouachita Parish Library* resigned in March to be married to *Raymond Henry* of Monroe. She is succeeded by *Joan Landby* of Monroe, a graduate of *Vanderbilt University*.

Mrs. Lellab H. Lyle, librarian, *Richland Parish Library*, reports that the library is participating in the organization of a *Community Council for Rayville* and the surrounding community. This newly-formed organization meets in the library each month. *Mary Mims*, *Rural Sociologist*, was a guest on one of the bookmobile runs recently in *Richland Parish*. *Mrs. Lyle* says, "At one stop all the neighbors gathered for a coffee, and at the last stop another gathering of friends was waiting to drink tea with 'Miss Mary.' At the end of the run the bookmobile was only two hours late, but everyone was still happy to wait."

Shreve Memorial Library opened its seventh city branch at *Werner Park* on February 27. This branch was formerly part of the *Caddo Parish Extension*, but when it came into the city, its operation became the responsibility of the city system. The book collection was changed, and the branch was moved from the school to a separate building on the school grounds. *Mrs. Melvin H. Luce*, who had been in charge of the parish branch, is librarian.

A special browsing collection is being assembled in one end of the reading room



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of *Shreve Memorial Library*. Approximately 1,500 books are in the collection, and others will be added. The browsing room, chosen as an adult education project, is proving to be popular with the patrons. The Humor section, including both fiction and non-fiction, is most popular. The sections on the West and on Louisiana are second in popularity. There are sections of Short Stories; Biography; Travel and Adventure; Sports, Hobbies, and Recreation; Literature and the Arts; a section of fiction; and a section for parents. Sections on Home-making; Psychology and Personal Problems; Religion and Philosophy; and Vocations are planned.

The *Iberia Parish Library* recently held open house to mark the opening of the new administrative building. About three hundred people visited the library during the afternoon. These included visitors from *Baton Rouge, New Orleans, Lafayette, and Abbeville*. That morning the members of the Police Jury inspected the building. *Earline Duplantis*, who has been on the staff of the Iberia Parish Library since its opening, resigned from her full-time position in February to attend college. She is still working part-time, however. *Mrs. Mary Brand of New Iberia* succeeds Miss Duplantis.

Lake Charles is at present planning for a new building for the city library. It is hoped that it will also provide quarters for the *Calcasieu Parish Library*.

Acadia Parish Library has recently moved into temporary quarters pending the building of a new court house.

The dedication of *Vermilion Parish Library's* new, modern building was held in *Abbeville* on Sunday, March 12, at 3:00 P.M. *J. E. Kibbe*, president of the Vermilion Parish Library Board opened the meeting. *Frank A. Godchaux* was master of ceremonies. *Essae M. Culver*, State Librarian, and *Dr. C. M. Sarratt*, Vice-Chancellor of *Vanderbilt University*, gave the addresses of the afternoon. *Cleo Songy* is librarian.

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